

Legislative Research
SAFLL-2

January 1962

Congressional Information

Name: Byrd, Harry Flood - Democrat - Senator from Virginia

Home: Berryville, Virginia

Born: Martinsburg, West Virginia - June 10, 1887

Marital Status: Anne Douglas - four children

Education: Public schools. Shenandoah Valley Academy, Winchester, Virginia

Profession: Newspaper publisher, farmer and applegrower

Experience: Virginia state senator; Governor (1926-30)
Appointed to US Senate March 3, 1933. Elected on November 7, 1933 for unexpired term of Claude A. Swanson; resigned and reelected for full term on November 6, 1934; reelected November 5, 1940 without opposition; reelected 1946, 1952, and 1958. Term expires 1965.

Committees: Armed Services (Subcommittees: Study Conflict of Interest Laws; CIA)

Finance (Chairman)

Joint Committee on Reduction of Nonessential Federal Expenditures (Chairman)

Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation (Chairman)

Ex Officio: Department of Defense Subcommittee and Military Construction Subcommittee - both of Senate Appropriations Committee

Bases: Langley

Remarks: Often speaks on importance of balancing budget and evils of deficit spending. Considered an authority on budget procedure. Has always opposed large amounts of unexpended balances in DOD appropriations. Has introduced 9 times in Senate a single appropriations bill. Twice it passed. However, House never took any action. In 1958 he called for cuts in nonessential expenditures because of continuing requirements of funds for missiles, satellites, etc. Has recommended reductions in Federal employment (most agencies operate on what is popularly known as the 'Byrd ceiling'). Voted for 1958 military pay raise legislation. Was floor manager on and explained Survivors' Benefits bill (HR 7089 - 84th Cong.).

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In role of Chairman of Joint Committee on Nonessential Federal Expenditures has accelerated drive against "back door" spending. Committee reports monthly on Federal employment and pay.

86th Congress -- comments -

Household Shipment - said an audit by Comptroller General found that airline shipments cost five times as much as surface transportation. (Cong. Record May 13, 1960 Page 9547)

Submitted various reports as chairman of Nonessential Federal Expenditures Joint Committee and made a statement on Comptroller General Report on Capehart housing at 40 military installations. Comp Gen. review listed 15 installations where they found Capehart housing to be in excess and 3 localities where FHA-insured civilian housing units were found to be in default because of completion of Capehart projects. He said: "The so-called Capehart program evades appropriation control, and without the Comptroller General's audit there is no independent expenditures review." (Cong. Record August 16, 1960 Page 15345)

TACAN - March 8, 1961 he made release - "The Comptroller General of the U.S. has found that the Air Force engaged in what I regard as disgraceful activity in connection with the shipment of \$12 million in tactical air navigation (TACAN) equipment abroad under the Military Assistance Program (MAP)".

Back-door Spending - referred to increasing pressure for more and more back-door spending. Believes any program worthy of sponsorship by the Government should be sound enough to stand the test of the appropriation process as required by the Constitution. (Cong. Record May 3, 1961 Page 6611)

Berlin - as result of President's speech -- "I am in full accord with the firm and unequivocal stand that has been taken. . . the President's attention should be turned immediately to curtailment of all nondefense expenditures -- including those recommended since January -- which may be desirable, but not absolutely necessary. . . " (Cong. Record July 26, 1961 Page 12530)

Spending - Said: "Military preparedness by the US -- efficient and invincible -- today is vital to freedom in the world. This cannot be denied. The force of our military might, the strength of our international relations, as well as our domestic stability, depend upon the solvency of our fiscal policy. . . The big increase in Federal spending in the recent past, the present, and the future, have been, are and -- short of war -- will be in domestic-civilian programs; not defense or foreign aid." (Cong. Record Sept. 13, 1961 Page 18146)

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